



**State Representative
Dave Upthegrove**
33rd District

*Serving the communities of Burien, Des Moines,
Kent, Normandy Park and SeaTac*

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As you look at our transportation system in South King County, you'll see a mix of freeways, freight corridors, regional connecting roads, and transit services such as busses and trains. This transportation patchwork is woven throughout suburban neighborhoods and an industrial valley. We must coordinate transportation planning to protect our economy and quality of life.

As a member of the House Transportation Committee, I am pleased to report we made significant progress again this year—reforming the way roads can be funded in our region, and clearing the way for you to vote in 2007 on new investments. The new reforms improve accountability and coordination.

To the left is a “pop quiz” designed to test your knowledge of transportation buzz words and issues. Please take a moment to see how savvy you are when it comes to Puget Sound transportation planning. The answers to the questions are found inside this newsletter.

It is a great privilege to represent you in Olympia. If you have any questions about transportation or any other issue, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dave Upthegrove

Dave Upthegrove

**Representative
Dave Upthegrove**
33rd District

P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Phone: 360-786-7868

E-mail: upthegrove.dave@leg.wa.gov

Web: <http://hdc.leg.wa.gov/members/upthegrove>

Toll-free Legislative Hotline:
1-800-562-6000

TDD-TDD Hearing Impaired:
1-800-635-9993

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State Representative Dave Upthegrove



Transportation 101

Pop Quiz

State Transit & Roads
Vocabulary

Spring 2006

open to test your transportation IQ

Transportation 101

State Transit & Roads Vocabulary Questions

1) What is the RTID?

- a) A type of ferry boat ☐
- b) A plan to cover I-5 on rainy days. ☐
- c) Your quirky uncle “Ted” ☐
- d) A coordinated, three county transportation planning group. ☐

2) What does Multi-Modal mean?

- a) Ensuring that people use only cars and trucks to get around. ☐
- b) Having many annoying ringtones. ☐
- c) Using different integrated ways to move people around. ☐
- d) Using helicopters and hovercrafts for commuting. ☐

3) Define “Freight Mobility”:

- a) Transportation planning designed to move goods smoothly from manufacturers and producers to markets. ☐
- b) Watching trains roll down the tracks. ☐
- c) Transportation planning designed to hinder goods from moving from warehouses to markets. ☐
- d) The newest ride at the local amusement park. ☐

4) True or false: the 2005 Transportation Funding Package that was approved by the Legislature and re-approved by the voters funds only roads projects.

- True ☐
- False ☐

Upthegrove Answer Key

1

Answer: D

Created by the state Legislature, the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) designs integrated transportation plans in King, Pierce and Snohomish County, and then asks voters if they’re willing to raise taxes and fees to pay for the final planned projects.

The planning decisions are made by the RTID Executive Board (made up of county council members), and the final plan must be approved by each county. Once the plan is approved, then voters (like you) will approve or reject funding to implement the plan on next year’s ballot.

This year, the Legislature made significant changes to the RTID to make it more accountable and to improve planning efforts. No longer will we pit roads against transit. Rather, we recognize that a coordinated transportation plan relies upon both.

These efforts will pave the way for significant new investments in South King County including additional lanes on SR 167, connecting SR 509 to I-5, and improving regional bus service.



3

Answer: A

Freight Mobility is a type of transportation planning that is aimed at providing easy routes for goods to move from producers to markets. Intelligent freight mobility planning is especially important in South King County communities as our economy relies on transporting goods from industrial areas and warehouses in Kent and Auburn, to train depots, seaports (Port of Seattle and Port of Tacoma) and airports (SeaTac and Boeing Field).

The extension of South 228th Street to Military Road is a good example of a freight mobility project in our district. It is slated to ultimately link with SR 509 and open up a new freight corridor in the central core of the Green River Valley. A later phase involves separating trains from traffic where railroad tracks cross South 228th Street.



2

Answer: C

Multi-modal is transportation planning that links up different transportation systems so people can move smoothly from one system to another. Park and Rides are a great example. You drive your car, take a bus and then walk to work. This is three modes linked together: cars, buses, and sidewalks. It is this type of planning that makes sense for South County communities as we look for long-term commuting solutions.

Several multi-modal projects received funding in the voter-approved 2005 transportation budget. These projects are funded with the new vehicle weight fees and are essential to keeping our region moving.

4

Answer: False

When the voters approved the 2005 Transportation Budget, they approved a package that included both the gas tax and new vehicle weight fees. Because the state Constitution mandates that gas-tax money may only be spent on roads projects, it was necessary to include new weight fees to fund a roads and transit package.

These new weight fees will be used to fund \$835 million worth of transit and other non-roads projects like commuter trip reduction programs and safe walkways to schools. \$235 million worth of additional roads projects are also made possible by the weight fees. Without these voter-approved fees, these services and projects may never receive necessary sustainable funding.